(a) what is the number of deaths which took place in Delhi till date, due to gastro-enteritis and cholera during this month;

(b) what steps Government have taken to check spread of the epidemic; and

(c) whether Government propose to appoint a committee to enquire the reasons for spread of epidemic in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) 105 deaths have been reported from various hospitals in Delhi from 1st to 22nd July, 1988.

(b) Steps taken to prevent the spread of the disease include surveillance and monitoring of the cases, supply of safe drinking water to the affected areas, safe disposal of garbage heaps, desilting of drains, anti-cholera inoculations in the affected area, health education to create public awareness and disinfection of the wells and testing of the water samples, distribution of hallogen tablets to the affected people and supply of ORS packets for the prevention of dehydration and setting up mobile dispensaries and early hospitalization of cases.

(c) No.

Debt owed to Government by Shipping Industry

175. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total accumulated debt owed by the Shipping Industry to Government by way of loans and interest thereon; and

(b) what measures are being contemplated by Government for revival of the Shipping Industry which is seriously affected by recession?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The total accumulated debt owed by the Shipping Industry to Government on account of loans both by Private and Public sector is Rs. 885.52 crores as on 31-3-1988. A sum of Rs. 102.71 crores on account of interest is also owed to the Government by the Private sector companies as on 31-12-1987.

(b) The recent measures taken by the Government to revive shipping industry include providing financial assistance to viable shipping companies through rehabilitation proposals, helping shipping companies to get increased share of Indian cargo, simplifying procedures for acquisition and scrapping of vessels encouraging acquisition of specialised, modern fuel-efficient vessels etc. The guidelines framed by the Government with the help of Shipping Credit & Investment Company of India Limited for rehabilitation of viable Private Sector shipping companies include moratorium on repayment of loans, interest holiday for a limited period, rescheduling the repayments of loans etc. These measures would help the potentially viable shiping companies to overcome the adverse effects of the long global recession and lead to the creation of a stronger and financially viable shipping industry.

Cut in the Capacity of Indian Airlines

176. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines has decided to cut down its capacity as the utilisation of its fleet is being reduced to 2900 hours instead of 3100 hours, being done so far by the 27 strong Boeing 737 fleet operated by it;